in church bulletin 2004 # 2 -9-

The Memorial Walkway. The Landscape committee is trying to complete the Memorial Walkway project. The cut off of purchasing engraved stones will be **SEPTEMBER 30**. If you are considering purchasing a stone, please **contact us**. Payments do not have to be made at time of order. The walkway is to honor the living as well as the departed.

The American flag. Nicholas Danko has donated an American flag in the memory of his parents, Nicholas and Pearl Danko. The American flag is also dedicated to the servicemen of our parish both living and deceased. It is being place off the walkway next to the gazebo. Thank you for your contribution.

The Gazebo. Comments have been made about the church purchasing the gazebo. The gazebo was placed on the grounds in the Memory of Aleksander Niedbajlik. The gazebo was solely purchased and donated to the church by his wife and daughters. This was the beginning phase of the Memorial Walkway.

The Church Bell. The next project is the placement of our church bell. The following is some history of our bell by Olga Atzhorn.

When our church a 45th and Maryland was up for sale the council members had many decisions to make as to what things would stay and what would go. Example: Iconastas – stained glass windows – beautiful chandelier – cupolas and our precious church bell.

Nick Rozdelsky was unable to ever meet with Boyd Construction regarding the church bell. I volunteered and after quite a few visits we finally met at church to discuss the moving of the bell. Arrangements were made whereby Boyd Construction would move and store our bell at their construction site for a year at no charge.

Our precious bell rang during many special times during the Divine Liturgy. After each stanza of the Creed, but most important during the Consecration when we call on the Holy Spirit to change our gifts of bread and wine to the very Body and Blood of Christ. Never did we ever say Amen, Amen, Amen. Our precious bell would be rung again and again while the faithful knelt in worship.

After all these years without our bell, I took it upon myself and began looking around for bell tower for our precious bell. A few month ago I went to Boyd Construction and told them again my name and that I was from the Russian Church and I came to see our church bell. He smiled and said its not here anymore, I'll take you to it if you will follow me. Very nervously I followed him not knowing what to expect.

It is mounted on a very sturdy stand. There are no cracks in the bell and it rings beautifully and loud. Dick Boyd was very nice and knew where it really belonged and offered to move our precious bell, stand and all at no charge wherever we wish – but only one time. I made one more visit last week to verify this.

I have assembled a collection of photos taken recently of local bell towers that can be viewed in our church hall for your consideration and suggestions as to our precious bells final location.

Purchased in 1912 from the old Tolleston Fire Station for $46.00 and installed in a lone cupola in our first (wooden) church at 17th and Fillmore. Cost of the church - $7,000.00. In 1922 the wooden church was encased in yellow brick and two more cupolas added – cost $12,000.00 plus parish home.

In 1958 our first church was sold and in 1959 our second church was built at 45th and Maryland. Our precious bell made the move and was installed in the main cupola. Cost of church, hall and parish home $350,000.00 – sold for $285,000.00.

In 1997 construction began for our third church at our present location at 8600 Grand Blvd. Our precious bell was placed temporally in storage – cost of land $110,000.00 - church $1,800,000.00.

Where is our precious bell today? Under lock and key in the gated backyard of a private home. Where does our precious church bell belong? Here at The Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church.

Olga Atzhorn

Nick - please Return this its my only copy
Thanks for your help! glad you + Melody
are now with us!

The bell near the entrance of the current parish location in Merrillville, IN with commemorative plaque. Photo taken in 2025.

This bell is dedicated to the original
Russian immigrants who founded
St. Mary's Orthodox Church in 1911
at 17th and Fillmore St., Gary, IN
under the pastoral leadership of
Rev. Father Benjamin Kedrovsky
1911-1968
It Now Rests In "God's Field".